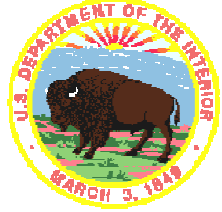




BLM News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior
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Vale District Office
100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon 97918-9630
<http://www.or.blm.gov/Vale/>



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News Contact:
Anita Perry (541) 473-6296

Baker Resource Area Prescribed Burns Scheduled

Vale, OR, October 4 – Fire Management Officials from the Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management are planning ignition of three prescribed under-burn projects in the Baker Resource Area. These projects which will occur in the Washington Gulch, Goodrich Creek, and Salmon Creek areas could take place as soon as next week, weather permitting.

The purpose of this type of prescribed burn is to improve the health of rangeland, woodland, and stream sides within the project area, and to reduce chances of a catastrophic wildfire. There is growing recognition that past land-use practices combined with the effects of fire exclusion can result in heavy accumulations of dead vegetation, altering fuel arrangement, and changing vegetative structure and composition. When dead fallen material accumulates on the ground, it increases fuel quantity and creates a continuous arrangement of fuel. When this occurs, surface fires may ignite more quickly, burn with greater intensity, and spread more rapidly and extensively.

These Forest Health and Hazardous Fuels reduction projects will begin when experts determine that weather conditions consistent with temperature, humidity, and winds, are within the prescribed burn window.

Residents may observe smoke periodically in the project areas once the burning periods begin.

For additional information about these prescribed burning projects, please contact the Vale District Fire Management Office at (541) 473-6265.

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